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A letter from Sir J.
B— ks to W. B— n, Esq.
1719

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A

LETTER

FROM

Sir *J. B–ks* to *W. B–n*, Esq;

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Rt. Hon. Lord Clifford

A

LETTER

FROM

Sir *J. B--ks* to *W. B--n*, Esq; *S.O.*

By Birth an ENGLISHMAN;

But Unnaturaliz'd and turn'd SWEDE, Architect, Hydrographer, and Gardiner; and for a little Time M----- of the P----- P-----:

CONCERNING

A late CONTRACT, that was endeavour'd to be Establish'd by a certain Bold Officer in *Sweden*, to the utter Undoing of the Board of Works in that Kingdom.

Done from the Original Copy at STOCKHOLM, 1718.

Magnis tamen excidit ausis. Ovid.

In ENGLISH *thus:*

You'll find the Thing will not be done
With Ignorance and Face alone:
No; tho' you've purchas'd to your Name,
In History so great a Fame.
That all Affronts do still give Place
To your Impenetrable Face:
That makes your Way through all Affairs,
As Pigs, through Hedges, creep with theirs.
Yet, as 'tis counterfeit and Brass,
You must not think 'twill always pass.
For all Impostors, when they're known,
Are past their Labour, and Undone. *Hud.*

N. B. *The Learned* Eust——Bud——l, *Esq; intends speedily to write a full and true Account to Sir* J—— Baker *of the whole Proceedings at* Shafton, *touching the late Election in that Corporation; as also of Mr. Justice* Toomer *the Tinman's Advancement to be Clerk of the Works at* Winchester, *for the better Government of the Town of* Shaftsbury, *of which he is at present Half Mayor at least.*

LONDON: Printed for A. MOORE, near St. *Paul's* Church. MDCC XIX.

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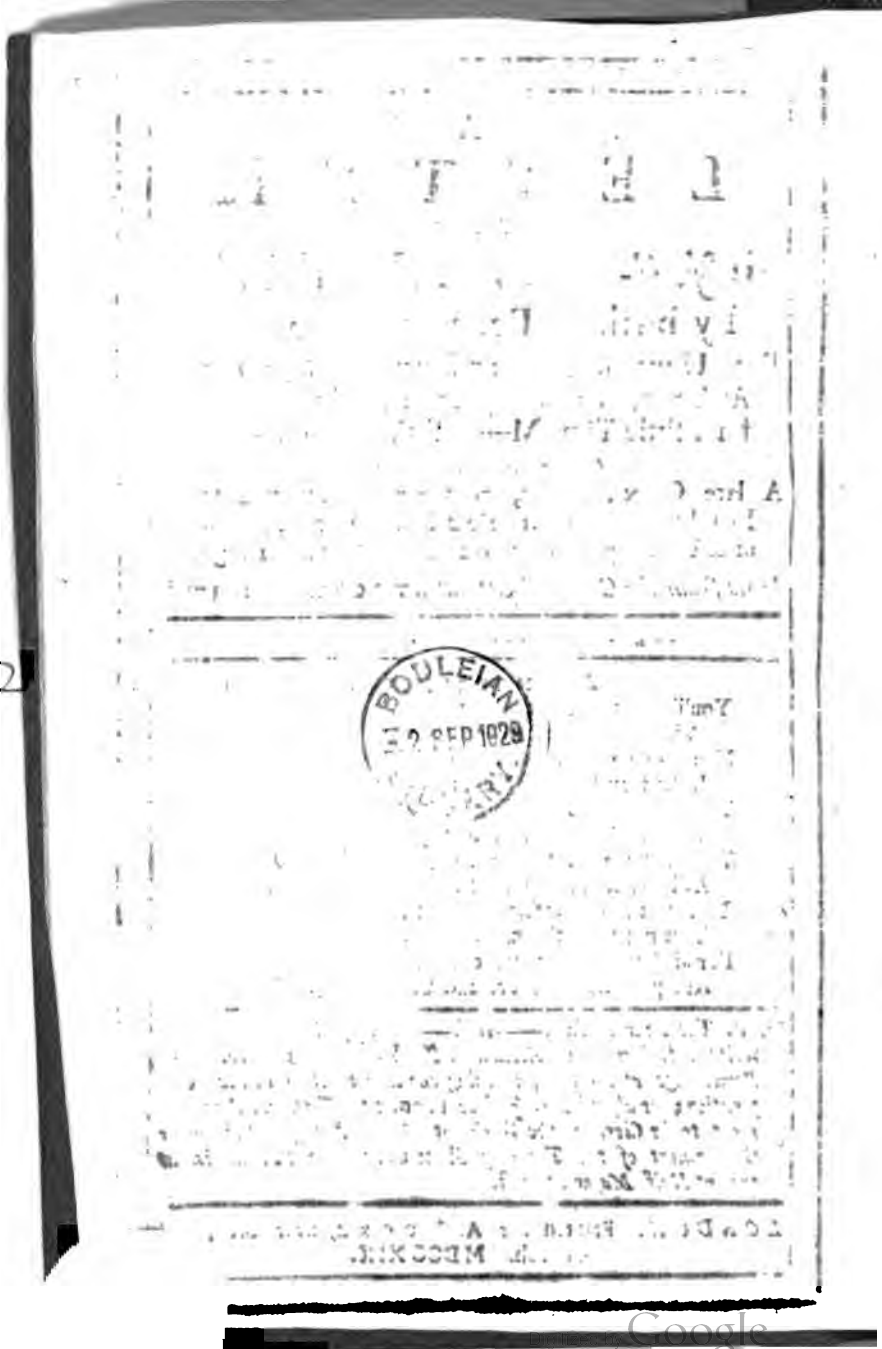
BOULEIAN
29 SEP 1929

A

LETTER

TO

W——B——n, Esq; *&c.*

SIR,

IT has just now taken me in the Head to answer the Letter which you writ to me some Years ago about *Sweden*, and *Minehead*, and Passive Obedience, and the like momentous merry Points. I would not have you wonder at my Travelling into Print and the Publick; since, instructed by a few Books, and aided by other good Assistance, I have as undon-

troulable a Right to be an Author, as any Letter-Writer whatsoever.

It is like you might not have heard from me so soon, had not the dismal Death of that Father of his Country, the King of *Sweden*, of indefeasible Memory, which hath affected both the State and the Stocks, had its Effects also upon me.

I own, I am greatly grieved that His Sacred Majesty should die at this time of day; or, indeed, *at all*; for he was a Prince of pretty Parts, and could make himself obey'd. It was opposite to the Rules of good Fellowship to leave us in the *Christmas*-Holidays. But by this may be seen the Fate of those who will be prophanely following their *Trade* during a Season which is consecrated to the *pious* Uses of Mirth and Wantonness.

To alleviate my Grief on this Occasion, I have chosen a Remedy much in Use, to write a Letter and ease my Heart to my *Friend*; and the rather, because I divert my self, and pay a Debt at the same Time.

Let so much serve for an Introduction.

When I first heard you were promoted, I could not help thinking that you got your Place by the same Merit by which I was preferr'd to a Wife, viz. because I would have her, and could not accept of any Denial. And, indeed, this very Reason runs away with more Preferments than any other good Quality between *London* and *Stockholm*. A Man's Sufficiency may appear most plainly to himself, and yet all his Fellow-Men may be most ignorant of it.

But this is not altogether my Case. I am a Tall Man, as any one may see that looks at me; and I thought that Seven Foot of Height was a Piece of Worth sufficient to ensnare any Widow's Heart in *Great Britain*; and to *One* it prov'd so: She saw me, and star'd, and wanted to be *better acquainted*. Stature and Monosyllables did my Business, and my Advancement was as little indebted to Speech-making, as is your own.

This is a summary Account of the Leap I made into the Arms and Estate of a rich Relict.

And

And when I had secur'd my Stand
Upon a Widow's Jointure-Land,

I took another Spring, and vaulted into the Parliament-House, from whence I looked wishfully towards a Place; for when a Man is siz'd with an Itch of rising, he sometimes climbs so high, that losing his hold of Innocence and Safety, he endangers that Part of his Body which is higher than any Part of his Body.

But neither was this my Case; and I wish, dear Brother-Writer, and Fellow-Climber, it does not prove yours: And yet I am not us'd to wish or pray without sufficient Cause me thereunto moving.

I am told, the essential Qualifications for any Post, are Two, Ability and *another*: But this latter is, it seems, reckon'd by many an Obstacle to the Art of Thriving; however, I pray God to send it you, when he thinks fitting.

If restless Bustling and Undermining, and unrebuffable Application, may entitle a Man to a Place, you have certainly deserved yours; nay, you have purchas'd it: For you push'd, and ask'd, and pocketed In-

dignities,

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dignities, till you had got a good Place, and a Patent for a Better, *to the Amusement of every Body, and all the World besides*; as an Eloquent Member of the House of Commons worded it once upon a Time.

You are now, Sir, got upon a pretty high Point, where Stumbling may be dangerous. For your Security, therefore, and for the better forming of your Behaviour, I beg Leave to lay before you a short Portion of Secret History, from whence, if you mind it well, you may draw good Instruction. The Authors from whom I take it, are unknown to you; but however, following your Example, I will name them; and they are these Two, *Varronius Nubius*, and *Benjius Brotherus*. I can say nothing of their Reputation; but pray Mind the Tale.

Count *Suderkoping*, a *Swedish* Lord, had several Seats and Lodges, which requiring frequent Alterations and Repairs from time to time, proper Artificers and Workmen were constantly employ'd about them; more principally and particularly Three, a *chief* Mason, a *chief* Carpenter, and a *Layer* of Bricks. The first, *Mangerfickberg*;

burg; another was *Josse Erickson*; and the Third was *Hugo Venter*. Over all these was placed *Cnute Torkel*, *Inspector of the Labourers*. This discerning Person running violently at Money and Fame, told the Count, That whereas his Lordship's Houses cost him so much Yearly, he had got a Couple of understanding Workmen, who would keep them in good Case for half of the said so much. The Undertakers, he told them, were the said *Josse* and *Mungo*; and read to the Count the Articles upon which he said they had agreed to keep all his Seats in Repair, during Three Years to come, for the Sum of Twelve-score Pounds *per Annum*; which seem'd but small, in comparison with what they had cost for some foregoing Years.

These Articles therefore pleas'd; but all this while honest *Mungo* and *Josse* knew not one Word of the Matter; for *Cnute Torkel*, who carries Masons and Carpenters, and most other Trades in the Belly of him, had carried on this fine saving Scheme by himself, for Reasons which will be seen presently.

But it was now Time to tell the Contractors what they had contracted; and

when he had sufficiently gain'd their Hearts by many fine Stories and fine Treats, he open'd the Project, and persuaded the honest *blind* Men to do that which they had already, unknown to themselves, articled to do; and even to go a long Step further, and make over by a Deed in Writing, all their Right and Interest in the said Articles (when executed) to himself the said *Torkel*. So that he himself was now the only Undertaker of the Repairs.

But still they had not sign'd the first Agreement, tho' they had assented to it; and now that they began to reflect, they began to hesitate. The Houses were already in such good Case, that in Three or Four Years they were like to demand little or no Repairs at all, and consequently *Torkel* would have all the Money given for that Use to himself; and should any of the Houses fall through his Neglect or Avarice, they who had contracted, and not he, were to make them good.

When *Torkel* perceived this Backwardness in *Jesse* and *Mungo* to fall into his Measures, he said the most plausible Things to remove their Objections, and alter their Minds; and besides all this, he offer'd them

Twenty Pounds a Year a-piece, by way of Hush-Money, and in Consideration of their Compliance. At this Bait they began to bite, which rejoiced his Heart; and to over-reach them thoroughly, he craftily dealt with them apart, in the manner following.

Says he to *Mungo*; *Mr.* Jackberg, *in Regard of my better Value for you, and of your better Worth, you shall have Thirty Pounds a Year, that is Ten more than I give to* Erickson: *But pray say nothing to him of it.* Honest *Mungo* promis'd to be silent, and thank'd the bountiful Mr. *Torkel.*

But see the Difficulty of keeping a Secret! *Mungo* no sooner saw *Josse*, but he began to plume and magnify; and *Josse* was given to understand, *that Old Mungo Jackberg, as simple as he stood there, was a prettier Fellow than* Josse Erickson *by Ten Pounds a Year. Ha, ha, ha, cries* Josse, *that's a merry Jest, faith; when I can tell you to your Teeth, that I am a braver Man than your self by just the same Sum, and I will give you Goodman* Torkel's *Word for it;* and out he pull'd a Paper sign'd Torkel, *by which it appeared that* Josse *was actually entitled*

entitled to the Ten Pounds a Year, which Mungo *had only been promis'd.*

This Discovery made them stare, and they still grew more averse to signing the Agreement which Goodman *Torkel* had made for them with the Count; and utterly refus'd signing, when they had read the following Questions and Answers, which a waggish Fellow in the Neighbourhood laid before them.

Quest. 1. *Whether Goodman* Torkel *meant to save to the Count, or to gain to himself?*

Ans. One of them.

Quest. 2. *Whether his using feigned Names does not betray a selfish Meaning?*

Ans. That needs no Answer.

Quest. 3. *Whether he could not have saved the Count Money without a Contract?*

Ans. It is a needless Question.

Quest. 4. *Whether* Swereher Wrecken, *the Old Inspector of the Labourers, did not per-*

perform the ordinary Repairs, abstracted from the extraordinary, or new Works, for much less than Twenty Pounds a Month?

Anſ. Old *Swercher* did not underſtand the Play of Booty; and there was Peace among the Count's Workmen in his Days.

Queſt. 5. *Whether* Rodulph Koningshofen *will not undertake the Repairs for Twelve Pounds a Month?*

Anſ. That would make *Rodulph* too rich.

Queſt. 6. *Why were not Painting, Wainſcoting,* &c. *mention'd in the Contract?*

Anſ. Becauſe they would coſt Money.

Queſt. 7. *Why was* Dannermark *Lodge left out of the Contract?*

Anſ. Becauſe it wanted Repairing.

There are many more of theſe unlucky Queſtions and Replies, which I will not trouble you with: I will only obſerve, that they ſpoil'd the Joke, and marr'd Goodman *Tarkel*'s Deſign. But there was ano-

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another Project of his, with which I muſt acquaint you.

The Count's Gardiner, *Tieffenback*, had, with the Reputation of much Honeſty and Skill, ſerved the Count's Father and Grandfather in the ſame Station: But Goodman *Torkel* was reſolved, for ſuch Reaſons as always ſway him, to weed Old *Tieffenback* out of his Garden, and drive him from his *Eden*, and his Apple-Trees.

In Order to this, he writes the following Letter to the Count.

My LORD,

" THE Expence of your Gardens a-
" mounting yearly to the Sum of
" Two Hundred Pounds, and one *Haquin*
" *Stenchil* having propos'd to me to under-
" take them for Half that Sum; accord-
" ing to my Duty, I acquaint your Lord-
" ſhip with it. And am, *&c.*

It was evident from this Project, that Goodman *Torkel* aim'd at being Principal Gardiner, and *Stenchil* was to have been his chief Digger. But the ſame Wag that writ

writ the Questions and Answers, ruin'd this Design likewise, by ridiculing *Torkel*'s Schemes, in the following feign'd Epistle.

A Letter from Goodman Torkel, the Projector, to the King of Sweden.

May it please your Majesty,

" THE Expence of managing your " Royal Treasury amounting year- " ly to the Sum of several Thousand " Pounds; and I, a Person of very good " Fame, and Skill in handling Money, ha- " ving propos'd to my self to undertake " the said Expence for Half the said Thou- " sands; according to my Duty to my said " self, I said the Proposal before my said " self, who commands me in all Love to " acquaint your Majesty therewith, and to " observe to your Majesty, that the Charge " of conveying my said self from one " Place to another, is included in this " Proposal of Mr. *Me*.

" And whereas your Majesty gives very " great Salaries to your Principal Ministers " and Secretaries, I can get one *Martin* " *Scribble*,

" *Scribble*, a Schoolmaſter in *Stockholm*, to " ſerve your Majeſty as Secretary of State " for Thirty Pounds a Year. And a diſ- " banded Purſer and Boatſwain ſhall un- " dertake the Office of Admiralty for the " ſame Wages. And I have a Groom " that will make a very good Maſter of " the Horſe for Ten Pounds a Year and a " new Livery.

In this ſneering Way did our Arch Droll diſappoint the tow'ring Intentions of Goodman *Torkel*, the Projector; whoſe Fate at laſt I do not care to tell you, how, while he leap'd at all, he was fruſtrated of all; and, being every Man's Foe, made every Man his Foe: And, in fine,——

As I mean this Story to you for good, it will be none of my Fault, if you do not derive ſome Advantage from it. In order to which, I muſt lay before you another artful Fetch and Strain of Policy in Maſter *Torkel*, as follows.

It was agreed and inſerted in the Articles before-mentioned, That when any Diſpute aroſe about the Repairs, and the manner of making them, Three Perſons were to be appointed Referees for adjuſting ſuch

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Dispute; one to be chosen and named by the Count himself, one by Goodman *Torkel*, and one by *Jasse* and *Mango*, the Contractors. Can any thing be more plausible than this, and carry a greater Face of Fairness? And yet, dear Sir, I beg you not to be extremely amaz'd to hear that this was the most biting Joke that ever you heard. For, as I have told you already, Goodman *Torkel* had, by an Instrument in Writing, got the whole Benefit and Right of the Contract made over to himself; so that he being both Himself and the Contractors, was to name Two of the Referees out of the Three, and was therefore sure of carrying any Point he pleased for himself against the Count.

But this Drift, tho' sly and well-design'd, was seen through, and rescued by the Count's *Chief Steward*, the *Castellan of Sudermania*; who perceiving the Indignity and Deceit put upon his Master, set his Heel upon Goodman *Torkel*, and blasted his Intrigues.

Behold here the Benefit and Blessing which accrue to a Great Man from the Integrity and Capacity of a *principal directing* Servant! The *Castellan of Sudermania*

mania was a Gentleman of this ſort: The *Greatneſs* of his Heart placed him above practiſing *little Arts*, and the Greatneſs of his Underſtanding above ſuffering them. It was obſerved of him, that he merited Wealth, but deſpis'd it; and neglected his own Intereſt, to attend and advance his Maſter's. Inſomuch, that in a long Train of Years, in which he directed the Affairs of the Count, and thoſe of his Anceſtors, he rewarded himſelf with nothing but Reputation; and tho' he acquir'd infinite Fame, his Fortune felt no Increaſe.

Thus, *Sir*, I have told you a *Swediſh* Story, as you did me formerly: There will be this Difference found between your Epiſtle and mine: That yours would have fitted any other *Tory* as well as me; but mine will match never a *Whig* in *England* ſo well as your ſelf. I have this Opinion of my own Performance, that if you ſhould, in a Pet, call it impertinent, I doubt your Heart will not believe your Mouth.

As to the ſpiteful Story which malicious Report tells of me, how I cut Capers with a Wooden Sword by my Side on a certain Occa-

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Occaſion, I deſire you not to credit it; and, in Requital, I ſay nothing of your juſt and honourable Dealings with the ingenious Dr. *Hollen* of *Ailmsbury*; and with honeſt *J——k R——l——y*, who is ſent on a long Errand for your Perſonal Profit.

When you next think fit to abuſe the Clergy in your ſecond *Apology* for the *Cardinal*, pray tell us ſome more Truths concerning your ſelf. We firmly believe that which you have already imparted to us; namely, that you never taught Mankind either Reaſon or Religion; and we are ready to give our Aſſent to every thing elſe you will ſay to the like Purpoſe.

I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.

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